

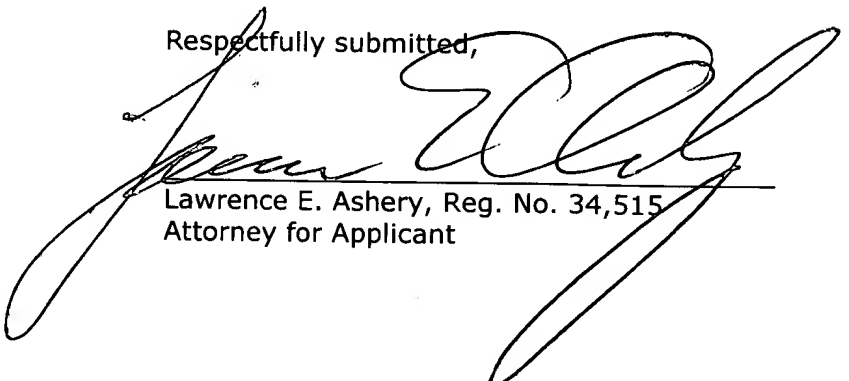
Appln. No.: 09/971,727  
Amendment Dated August 18, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2004

MAT-8192US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Horie (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0070526). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The effective date of the Horie Publication is January 17, 2002. Applicants present application, however, was filed on October 5, 2001. Thus, Applicants filing date precedes the effective filing date of the reference used in the prior art rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515  
Attorney for Applicant

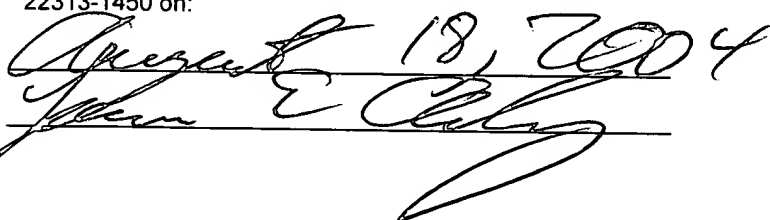
LEA/dlm

Dated: August 18, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

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